



CHAPTER 3

PART 3 GROUND MOBILITY AND FIRE SUPPORT

INTRODUCTION

Today's operational environments demand speed, agility and mobility of ground forces to respond to if not anticipate an adversary's actions, often in complex, ambiguous battlefields, against irregular forces and in a wide variety of operational—desert, jungle and Arctic—environments. Individual Marines must also be capable of deterring and defeating the conventional forces of more traditional adversaries, where the ability to maneuver with speed and agility—from the sea, across the beach to inland objectives—also remains paramount to achieving mission objectives. An important enabler of maneuver warfare, mobility across all terrain is enhanced by the Individual Marine's ability to call in offensive and defensive fires from ground-based, airborne and seaborne systems. Timely, responsive, high-accuracy and precision fires can often mean the difference between success and failure.

The Army and Marine Corps are leading the Services in developing tactical wheeled vehicle requirements for the joint force. The defined capabilities reflect an appropriate balance in survivability, mobility, payload, networking, transportability, and sustainability. The Army/Marine Corps Board has proven a valuable forum for coordination of the development and fielding strategies; production of armor-ing kits and up-armored High Mobil-

ity Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles; and rapid response to requests for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

In 2007, "The Major Combat Operations Analysis for fiscal years 2014 and 2024" study scrutinized the current organic fire support of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), to determine the adequacy, integration, and modernization requirements for ground, aviation, and naval surface fires. We also performed a supplemental historical study using Operation Iraqi Freedom data to examine MAGTF Fires in the full spectrum of warfare. These studies re-confirmed our development of the Triad of Ground Indirect Fires.

Several innovative systems related to fire support significantly enhance the warfighting efficiency and effectiveness of the MAGTF. Such systems include the M777 Lightweight Howitzer, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, Expeditionary Fire Support System, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, and the Target Location, Designation, and Handoff system.

The ground mobility programs discussed in this section are designed to ensure that Individual Marines are mobile and survivable on the modern battlefield and possess critical fire-support systems that increase the MAGTF's lethality and effectiveness.